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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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State Dept. review completed

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Chile: President Frei believes the military's  
traditionally apolitical attitude has changed.

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CHILE: PRESIDENT FREI BELIEVES THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN THE TRADITIONALLY APOLITICAL ATTITUDE OF THE CHILEAN MILITARY.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] FREI HAS TOLD US AMBASSADOR KORRY THAT ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS HAVE SOUNDED OUT HIS CLOSE SUPPORTERS ON HOW FREI WOULD REACT TO A COUP. HE SAID THAT THEY DID NOT WISH TO SEE CHILE UNDER A MARXIST GOVERNMENT, AND THEY FEARED THAT A VICTORY BY CONSERVATIVE FORMER PRESI-JORGE ALESSANDRI WOULD PROVOKE LEFTIST REACTION THAT WOULD LEAD TO CLASHES WITH THE POLICE.

FREI HAS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NEVER APPROVE OF A COUP TO PREVENT EITHER A MARXIST OR ALESSANDRI FROM COMING TO POWER. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT MILITARY DISCONTENT HAS ADVANCED BEYOND THE THINK-ING AND TALKING STAGE. THE MILITARY ARE, HOWEVER, PROBABLY PRESSING FREI FOR MODERNIZATION OF THEIR EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE UPGRADING OF EQUIPMENT IN NEIGHBORING ARGENTINA AND PERU.

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